

ATEL Committee Meeting
Public Utilities Commission
September 15, 2011
9:00 AM

Attendees:

Roberta Greene Whittemore, Denise Corson, James Litvack, , Jim Lanni , Charles Brown, Pam Kling, Melissa Rosenberg, Mitchell Levy, Sean Gill, Laurie Duffy, Harry Mancoll, Joe Pereira and Mathew Provost.

1. Interpreter was cancelled last minute. Roberta tried to contact an interpreter but was not successful. James, Mitchell and Sean agreed to continue the meeting since everyone was already there. However, James asked that the conference call with Sprint Relay be postponed until next meeting. The committee spoke on having a back up plan, so that we are not put into this predicament in the future. Denise agreed to give the CDHH her cell phone number, so that we could have more advanced notice of any Interpreter issues. Also, another suggestion was to have CART services as an automatic back up plan.

2. Introduction made.

3. Minutes reviewed and accepted.

4. ATEL Demonstration Program Update – the summer was a bit slow, but we had 10 people attend the 9/14 demonstration. Our guest speaker was Mitchell Levy, who was the former RI Relay Manager.

Mitchell gave a great presentation on web and mobile Captel. All the equipment that was requested by James for the Demonstration Program and the Loaner library was recently received. Both TechACCESS and the Demo Program benefited from the projector screen donation; TechACCESS has used the screen in other training session and it saves \$75 rental expenses for use with CART service during the Demo Program. James will have all the new equipment up and running by October's Demo Program. It was discussed that we should also have this information about new equipment featured at our next Demo and put on the TechACCESS website. It was also requested that Steve Florio attend the next meeting to give an update of the equipment the CDHH received.

5. Although the conference call was rescheduled, Denise and Roberta discussed their thoughts on their thoughts on how ATEL may be able to use the funds in excess of the \$10,000 legislatively mandated for land-line/single party lines, to purchase wireless devices. Their thought was that ATEL set aside \$10,000 for purchase of land-line phone devices (since this is what is given to the program from the relay surcharge), but be able to use some of the State Funds the program receives to purchase wireless devices. Jim Lanni stated that this was not the right solution, and that we need to pursue changing the legislation; since, there is an issue with only landlines paying a relay surcharge. Jim stated that it should not be an issue, since we are only looking to change a few words, and that the PUC was not looking to charge a relay surcharge (at this time) on wireless devices. Jim agreed to draft changes to the legislation for review at our Dec.

8th Meeting (THANK YOU JIM!!!!). Denise discussed that the program is in great shape financially to take on wireless technology, since overhead and equipment costs have been significantly reduced. Denise stated that Sprint's wireless program is flexible, and gives people options on what phone may be right for them i.e....texting, VP, and mobile captions. Two years ago, the only program out there offered their clients Sidekicks only. Today, Sprint offers a variety of phones and the most it would cost the ATEL Program is \$200 per device. However, Sprint also stated that they would be flexible on packages as well. The ATEL Committee could come up with a price per person they are willing to spend of say \$500, and the balance left after the equipment is chosen could off set their activation, security deposit or monthly wireless charge fees.

6. Jim Lanni also discussed that the Relay contract will be awarded next week. ATT, Sprint and Hamilton have bided on the RI contract. The contract will be for 4 years with a 5 year option. Some of the changes requested are a more friendly website and increased outreach dollars to be spend on business and elderly outreach (from 20K to 30K). Also, the contract takes in to consideration that Captel minutes are now the primary relay minutes. TRS is now at 49% of relay calls and Captel minutes are 51%, and the charges are \$1.16 and \$1.65 per minute respectively.

7. The time and date of this year's quarterly meetings is scheduled for 9AM- 11AM at the PUC on Thursday, December 8, 2011.